UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/1991/NGO/1
15 April 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

First regular session of 1991
13-31 May and 17-21 June 1991
Items 7, 8 and 9 of the
provisional agenda*

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Statement submitted by the International Federation of Women Lawyers, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category II

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is circulated in accordance with paragraphs 23 and 24 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968.

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Resolutions adopted by the International Federation of Women Lawyers

CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF WOMEN

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:

1. The family is the natural and basic element of society and is entitled to protection from society and the state. Accordingly, the International Federation of Women Lawyers member countries must be asked to provide for state protection to the family in their constitutions.

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* E/1991/30.

2. In compliance with the international convention signed in Copenhagen in 1980,* the following principle was accepted as a constitutional norm:

"The state shall guarantee all persons equal exercise of all human, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights contained in the International Charter of Human Rights, irrespective of sex."

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:

3. Governments of all countries must be urged;

I. To ratify and comply with the principles of the convention as a constitutional norm;

II. To establish rules that have a positive effect on the status of women;

III. To create a Women's Affairs Office and, where such office exists to see that the convention is implemented.

4. Cultural change must be sought through the family, educators and the mass media to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women, who also must become aware of their merit in order to improve their own condition and self-esteem.

EDUCATION FOR PEACE

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:

The International Federation of Women Lawyers undertake a programme to ensure education for peace in the various countries in which it is represented and that it seek to secure financing from different international organizations for its implementation in each country.

WOMEN AS THE CENTRE OF HEALTH IN THE HOME

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:

The XXV General Assembly of the International Federation of Women Lawyers recognizes the primacy of the role of women in the health of the family and determines that the International Federation of Women Lawyers will develop a programme entitled "Women as the Centre of Health in the Home" to be disseminated and implemented in the countries where the International Federation of Women Lawyers is represented.

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* Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex).

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:

In order to combat violence against women and children:

1. Programmes be supported to generate awareness of and educate men and women about responsible parenthood.

2. Governments be urged to:

   I. Support programmes for free education of minors to enable them to receive an appropriate education.

   II. Undertake campaigns for the protection of women and abandoned and abused children.

   III. Allocate in their national budgets the resources necessary to provide for the protection of women and children.

   IV. Implement systems to rehabilitate those responsible for domestic violence to prevent recurrence of their former behaviour.

IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

Capital punishment be abolished, especially as regards persons under the age of 18 years.

ABORTION

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:

Each country be urged:

   I. To undertake comprehensive campaigns of information regarding effective family planning;

   II. To provide finance for the free availability of the means of contraception;

   III. That abortion be available to all women desiring abortion, including proper medical after-care.